

HISTORY GRADUATE PROGRAMME NEWSLETTER

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EDITORIAL:

This last issue of the Newsletter for the current year, its second year of publication, seems a good chance for some stock taking: hence, the first Editorial.

The past two or three years have seen revised procedures for the Ph.D. Programme, a restructured M.A. Programme (including the return of the M.A. Thesis and a restructured Non-Thesis Option which comes into effect next September); and tighter regulation of both admissions and student performance. Though there have certainly been setbacks as well, we now have a smaller, leaner more muscular programme, one in which students may take pride. Particularly impressive have been the much improved rate of completion and the greater student achievement in winning awards and presenting papers and publications.

Yet this is not laurel-resting time. We badly need more funding, to support both 'local' students and that increasing number of excellent candidates who seek to join us from afar. We must continue to encourage our students to present their work and also to seek funding externally. The Department must work hard and wisely to deal with forthcoming faculty retirements.

Two very specific challenges face us in the months ahead, First, it is our turn in 1988-89 to undergo the periodic evaluation carried out by the Board of Graduate Studies for all Concordia graduate programmes. In a process which will run from September, 1988 through February or March, 1989, we will be thoroughly scrutinized by a BGS Committee which will include an External Examiner: a senior historian from another university. Suggestions will soon be elicited for choosing such an individual. The recommendations of the Evaluating Committee may well determine the extent to which we expand, hold our ground, or reduce our Graduate Programme, and we must work hard to get it right.

Second, the advances which the Programme has made over the past little while have greatly expanded the responsibilities of its administration. Unless a way can be found to spread the administrative workload, some initiatives may soon become victims of their own success. Both faculty and students will be asked to do more in the months ahead. It is my hope that such a

broadening of administrative responsibilities will make the Programme more central both to the Department's operations and to the activities of its members. Should we fail in this, the Programme will have taken on about as much as it can handle, and we will be doing well simply to hold our ground. Let's hope we can do more.

R.T.

LANGUAGE EXAMINATIONS:

Examinations to demonstrate competence in a second language will be given between 10:00 A.M. and 3:00 P.M. on Tuesday, April 5th, Wednesday, April 6th and Thursday, April 7th and 7:00-9:00 P.M. on Thursday the 7th. Exams are two hours long. This will be the last chance for potential Spring graduates to take an exam; competence in a second language is a degree requirement. Phone Linda McDonald (848-2414) for an appointment or for information.

FACULTY COMINGS, GOINGS AND DOINGS:

Failing publication of a scorecard for the coming year, this may be your only guide to who's who and where. Franziska Shlosser will be on half sabbatical leave first term; Donald Ginter on half sabbatical leave second term; and Richard Diubaldo on full year's sabbatical leave. John Hill will return from India, where he has served as Director of the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute for the past year and some. Fred Bode will exchange positions with Prof. Neil Heyman of San Diego State University in California: Prof. Heyman is a specialist in Modern Russia and Central Europe. Prof. Lawrence McCaffrey, a distinguished Irish Historian and Professor of Irish History at Loyola University in Chicago will arrive in June to offer an undergraduate summer course on the Loyola Campus.

In addition, Fred Krantz's edition of the festschrift for George Rudé, History from Below, Studies in Popular Protest and Popular Ideology, first published in 1985, will be published in May by Blackwell's in both hard and soft cover editions. Joan Sherwood will be commenting on two papers at the forthcoming meeting of the Society for Spanish and Portuguese Historians meeting in Nashville, Tennessee, in April. Lionel Rothkrug's research on shrines has been the subject of a detailed critique in a recent edition of Social History.

STUDENT AFFAIRS:

Congratulations to Shirley Sellar and Heather Marinos, both of whom have now had their M.A. Essays approved and may expect to receive their degrees this spring. Dolores Chew has published a Discussion Paper for the Centre for Developing Area Studies for McGill University entitled 'Hul, Bidhora, Dhing: Subaltern Unrest in Colonial Bengal' (Jan., 1988, 51 pp.) A copy has been deposited in the Concordia Library.

ORAL HISTORY GRANTS:

Submissions are invited by Mrs Loren Singer (Project Co-ordinator for the Oral History of Montreal, c/o Norris Library) by May 1st for funding to carry out interviews with leaders in labour, industrial, cultural, social, religious or ethnic affairs in Montreal. The project has been funded by Shell Canada and is being administered by Mrs. Singer through the Library. Phone her at 848-7712 for information.